

LAOIS ARTS NEWS

Whats happening in the Arts & Culture scene in Laois—May 2021

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bealtaine festival
celebrating creativity in older age

Laois

The Arts Office presents

“Getting Hitched” a comic play online with shared memories, storytelling, sing-song, poetry and great fun...presented by Carnation Theatre. *Missing going to a wedding?* – Join us for an interactive play delivered **via the zoom platform on Tuesday, 4th of May at 11.30 am** –



Dress up, toast, be merry and singalong with us as we reminisce around weddings of days gone by. **Optional Dress Code: Flouncy with hats - Dancing: Mandatory** - RSVP to

artsoff@laoiscoco.ie or T: 057 8664033 asap – limited places available but limited.

Caring and Sharing Art

Artists in residence at Laois Arthouse Stradbally are responding to this theme to create a piece of artwork to hang in three of the Hospitals for older people in Laois;



St Vincents Hospital Mountmellick, Abbeyleix District Hospital and St Brigids’ Hospital Shane and the final work will be selected by a panel from each of the Hospitals. In early May all the artwork including the selected pieces created for this project will go on exhibition online in a show titled **“A Road Less Travelled”** in memory of those who were lost to us during this tragic journey through the pandemic. Online you can view the work and consider purchasing a piece for themselves or to donate to a Care Home of their choice in the county.

Short Story Writing Course



The Arts Office are hosting a 4-week online course with writer Pauline Clooney that can help you. From Mon 10th May, up to Mon 31st May 7pm-9pm. The focus is to explore ideas for stories and learn the craft associated with the short story form. Open to adults only, places are limited to 10 and cost €30/€20 (concession) Online payment To book E: artsoff@laoiscoco.ie with name and contact number before Friday 7th May.



The Laois Arthouse celebrates its tenth year in operation in May 2021. The Laois Arthouse has served many artists and generated projects benefitting professional artists, hobbyists and the community. Located in the Courthouse in the town, with the library to the front it boasts a wide range of services. These include five studios, two residential apartments, a kiln and an art gallery. A review and strategy will be conducted over the coming months to plan for the future of the Laois Arthouse and to ensure its continued success. Further details from artsoff@laoiscoco.ie

UPDATES Creative Ireland Laois

Laois County Council Arts Office in partnership with the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) is seeking 8 artists and art educators to participate in training to work with the elderly and person's living with dementia. For further information and application form, go to <https://laois.ie/departments/creative-ireland/ci-projects-2021/creativity-older-age/>. Submission deadline May 12th. Supported by the Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age fund.



Cruinniú na nÓg will take place on Saturday June 12th, a day of creativity for children and young people under the age of 18 celebrating and encouraging participation in culture and creativity through 'doing', 'making'. Events are free and activity-based. This year the majority of the Laois events will be online. Keep an eye out for booking information on upcoming events on our social media channels and <https://laois.ie/departments/creative-ireland/cruinniú-na-nog-2021/>.

A new Short **Film Bursary** for Laois will be announced in May. Keep an eye out for updates on our social media channels.

Creative Laois is launching a number of Creative Communities Grant Schemes in 2021 incl. an Equipment scheme and a Bursary scheme. Keep an eye out on how to apply on our social media channels.

Laois County Library Service and Laois Heritage Office have been allocated Creative Ireland funding for the archiving and conservation of the Ronnie Mathews Portarlinton Collection which when completed will be available online at Laois Local Studies, laoislocalstudies.ie

Supported by Creative Laois as part of the Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022 in partnership with Laois County Council. <https://laois.ie/departments/creative-ireland/ci-projects-2021/>.

I Was There!

A New Collection of Paintings by Maria O'Brien and Jock Nichol Standing in front of Jock Nichol and Maria O'Brien's paintings, you can just imagine yourself there: wandering along mountain forest tracks or exploring vast expanses of flora on boglands, paddle boarding through canyons or skiing at speed downhill – you can practically feel the sun on skin and crisp air whooshing past. A feeling of tranquillity or adrenalin that only being in the great outdoors can bring. FREE.

A Live Stream of Landmark Productions' Postcards from the Ledge - Ross O'Carroll-Kelly
Support Dunamais Arts Centre by booking your ticket via our website **Starring Rory Nolan as Ross | Written by Paul Howard | Directed by Jimmy Fay** Ross O'Carroll-Kelly is having a one-night stand - with the whole world! And you're invited! Ross (brilliantly embodied by Rory Nolan!) is coming to your gaff with a guarantee of 'laugh out loud, hilarious good fun'. (★★★★ The Arts Review) Broadcast live, one night only, and beamed into homes across the globe, don't miss a date with the ledge and 'two hours of unadulterated fun' (★★★★ Irish Daily Mail) **Saturday 15 May | Tickets from €20**



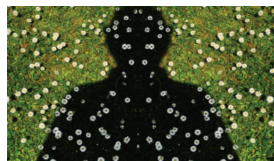
Lockdown Life Drawing (18+) with Rebecca Deegan
Thursdays 7pm-9pm | Donations based - pay what you can As our real-life sessions have been put on hold during current restrictions, our artist in residence Rebecca Deegan is running a series of online sessions with live models via Zoom. Suitable for artists of all levels - tips and guidance provided for beginners.

Dunamais is supporting artists during this unprecedented pandemic, through a variety of new online workshops, presentations and other off-line supports. IF you can, please donate to Dunamais so that we can be here for our artists and audiences throughout these strange days!

Music News

John Spillane's New Album '100 Snow White Horses'

John Spillane's new album, '100 Snow White Horses' is now on general release. The title track '100 Snow White Horses' was commissioned by Music Generation Laois and the Laois Arts Office in 2016. We are absolutely thrilled that our harpers feature on the album! We look forward to a Laois album launch with John Spillane very soon. To purchase a copy, follow the link <https://johnspillane.ie/shop/100-snow-white-horses-cd/>



MGL and LSM - Musical Memories Bandwagon Tour, Thurs 6 May and Fri 7 May, Bealtaine Festival 2021. Music Generation Laois present Nuala Kelly and Band, along with special guests Mountmellick Men's Shed Singers. As part of the MG Laois Musical Memories inter-generational music project, the bandwagon will tour St Vincent's Community Nursing Unit, Mountmellick, Abbeyleix Community Nursing Unit and St Brigid's Hospital Shaen - all aboard The Bandwagon, a mobile music vehicle created by Laois School of Music, as part of Bealtaine Festival 2021.